

## Today's News - Tuesday, September 27, 2016

- ANN feature: Call for Entries (and big prizes!): Green Skyline - Country Garden - Forest City Landmark Architecture International Design Competition (registration deadline looms!).
- Betsky has a field day parsing Heatherwick's "woven staircases" at Hudson Yards, named "Vessel - or the Stairway to Corporate Heaven, or whatever the \$150 million mound of staircases will be called - in the end, we have to live with and assess what contributions this bit of absurdity will make to New York."
- Iovine gives two thumbs-ups to D.C.'s new African American museum: it "bears the immense weight of its historic genesis as lightly as the shimmer on its triple-stacked crown shape - the spirit of inclusion [and] celebration is palpable in every space."
- Artsy "gets the inside scoop from the architects, and reviews from critics, on the NMAAHC and its artifacts."
- Capps digs into the details of how and why the museum's design team put most of the massive museum underground: "It took a small city to design, build, and engineer this thing."
- Hawthorne has (haltingly) high hopes for H&deM's massive plans for L.A.'s Arts District: "Overall, the design is thoughtful in its response to its site," but we're seeing it "in its rosy-fingered-dawn phase - we'd be wise to hold on to some skepticism."
- Dehghan offers a fascinating look at Tehran's "bold architecture": It "has long been home to a brand of wacky, yet distinctively Iranian, contemporary buildings."
- The five (impressive) shortlisted teams tasked with reimagining NYC's (pathetic) Port Authority bus terminal show off their proposals, but one insider says: "I don't think any of these five designs are likely to survive."
- In Zurich, Calatrava is building an office building next to his Stadelhofen rail station that "is relatively sedate for the architect" (parking for 1,000 bikes included).
- O'Sullivan finds much to like in BIG's "novel concept" for affordable housing: floating shipping containers, but "there's still something about it that makes the heart sink - a souped-up collection of narrow cargo boxes made water-borne so as to adapt to a slow-drip, watery apocalypse."
- Meanwhile, Perkins Eastman devises a portable "punk reimagining" of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre using shipping containers and scaffolding.
- Geher, chair of psychology at SUNY New Paltz, gives "five-stars and two thumbs up" to Croxton's Wooster Hall: "I feel privileged to work in a space that was clearly designed with such an evolutionarily informed mindset. Long live the Sun God!"
- After three years of research, the restoration of Kahn's "seminal" Salk Institute gets underway, thanks to the Getty.
- Pacheco parses a "Periera in peril" as Zumthor's "oil leak-inspired, confusingly under-cooked" plan for LACMA: "The question for Los Angeles is: Are its buildings simply economic commodities or are they expressions of history and culture open to reuse and reinterpretation?"
- Science magazine ponders "wood's true potential for 21st century cities" as "soaring wooden skyscrapers."
- A TEDTalk by MASS's Murphy re: "architecture that's built to heal," including the firm's "ambitious plan for The Memorial to Peace and Justice, which he hopes will heal hearts in the American South."
- Detroit Resists stays on the case of the Venice Biennale U.S. Pavilion's "lack of community representation," particularly when it comes to an upcoming panel: Who is missing from the conversation? "We might suggest that the very communities these processes pretend to aid are both invoked and erased."
- New York and Singapore "take center-stage" among the five International Highrise Award finalists.
- Niall McLaughlin takes home the RIBA Charles Jencks Award for Architecture 2016.
- One we couldn't resist: Abramovic gives Foster a golden replica of his brain and a "mad scientist" skull cap (at the "The Golden Brain Gala," where else?).
- Lest we forget: Happy 18th Birthday, Google!

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ANN feature: Call for Entries: Green Skyline - Country Garden - Forest City Landmark Architecture International Design Competition: Seeking a green skyline for a new and sustainable smart city in Malaysia. Registration deadline: October 15- ArchNewsNow.com

Thomas Heatherwick Showcases Woven Staircases: A recreational addition to Hudson Yards, Vessel ...or the Stairway to Corporate Heaven, or whatever the \$150 million mound of staircases will be called...there is a darker way to see [them]: As the escape route from skyscrapers...in the end, we have to live with and assess what contributions this bit of absurdity will make to New York and our cultural consciousness. By Aaron Betsky [images] - Architect Magazine

National Museum of African American History and Culture: Power With a Light Architectural Touch: The building is radical in its transparency and refusal to look, and even feel, like other museums on the Mall...bears the immense weight of its historic genesis...as lightly as the shimmer on its triple-stacked crown shape...the spirit of inclusion, celebration and even spiritual uplift is palpable in every space. By Julie V. Iovine -- Phil Freelon/Perkins + Will; David Adjaye; J. Max Bond Jr.; SmithGroupJJR - Wall Street Journal

The long road to the Smithsonian's new African-American museum: ...a striking homage to African-American history and culture. We get the inside scoop from the architects, and reviews from critics, on the building and its artifacts. By Avishay Artsy -- Phil Freelon; David Adjaye; J. Max Bond Jr. - KCRW (Los Angeles)

The Unlikely Trick of the Smithsonian's New National Museum of African American History and Culture: ...the last on the National Mall - is deceptively large...circumnavigated the most difficult potential debates with a single design strategy. Most of the museum is underground..."It took a small city to design, build, and engineer this thing." By Kriston Capps -- Freelon Adjaye Bond/Smithgroup [images] - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

How the first skyscrapers proposed for L.A.'s Arts District will change the neighborhood: Called 6AM...the project includes 1.96 million square feet...covering 14.5 acres...crowned with a pair of 58-story towers...is likely to be a lightning rod for controversy...Overall, the design is thoughtful in its response to its site...We'd be wise to hold on to some skepticism, though. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Herzog & de Meuron; AC Martin; Mia Lehrer + Associates [images] - Los Angeles Times

Tehran's towers: how the Iranian capital embraced bold architecture: Despite its rich history of boundary-pushing designs, Tehran's architecture scene had lain largely dormant since the 1979 revolution - until now...Tehran has long been home to a brand of wacky, yet distinctively Iranian, contemporary buildings. By Saeed Kamali Dehghan -- Houshang Seyhoun; Kamran Diba; Hossein Amana; Keivani Architects; Mirmiran; Kamran Rezaianpour/Idehkish; Next Office; Leila Araghian/Alireza Behzadi; Reza Daneshmir; Mohammad-Reza Nikbakht [images] - Guardian (UK)

Designs for a new bus terminal unveiled: Five firms submitted proposals...but it's unclear if any of them will come to fruition...Port Authority of New York and New Jersey agreed to an expanded planning... that would better include the public and other stakeholders in the process..."I don't think any of these five designs are likely to survive"... -- Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects/Stantec/WXY; Arcadis of New York/CallisonRTKL/Bentham Crouwel Architects; STV/AECOM/SOM; Perkins Eastman/Mikyoung Kim Design; Archilier/W Architecture and Landscape Architecture [images] - Crain's New York Business

Calatrava Builds Next to Calatrava: ...unveiled plans for a "cutting-edge office building" to be located next to the Santiago Calatrava-designed Stadelhofen rail station in Zurich...proposed five-story building named Haus Zum Falken is relatively sedate for the architect. [images] - World-Architects.com

Floating Containers as an Affordable Housing Solution: Copenhagen tries out a novel concept for a bleak-looking future: Urban

Rigger...uses interlocking shipping containers...there's still something about it that makes the heart sink. This is what a utopian contemporary solution to housing shortage looks like: a souped-up collection of narrow cargo boxes made water-borne so as to adapt to a slow-drip, watery apocalypse. By Feargus O'Sullivan – BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

'Punk reimagining' of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre uses shipping containers and scaffolding: ...creating cost-effective 'Container Globe' venues that can be built around the world...can be either temporary or permanent additions to a city...-- Angus Vail; Perkins Eastman; Arup [images]- CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

Worshipping the Sun God: Evolution, architecture, and the new Wooster Hall: Those of us who work toward improving the world for the future, can benefit from incorporating the work of evolutionary psychology into their work. As a client of the newly renovated Wooster Hall at the State University of New York at New Paltz, I feel privileged to work in a space that was clearly designed with such an evolutionarily informed mindset. Long live the Sun God! By Glenn Geher, Ph.D. -- Randolph Croxton/Croxton Collaborative Architects- Psychology Today

Getty Conservation Institute begins restoration of Louis Kahn's Salk Institute: ...after three years of research, construction is currently underway on...conservation efforts aimed at restoring the luster of Kahn's seminal [1965] Southern California work...in La Jolla, California. -- Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates; Peter Inskip + Peter Jenkins Architects - The Architect's Newspaper

Pereira in Peril: Time is running out for William Pereira's modernist legacy: ...aspects of his legacy are more or less doing fine...but...Peter Zumthor-designed...building [for LACMA] would demolish the Pereira and Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates buildings...Those relics would be replaced with an oil leak-inspired...confusingly under-cooked Zumthor plan...The question for Los Angeles right now is: Are its buildings simply economic commodities or are they expressions of history and culture open to reuse and reinterpretation? By Antonio Pacheco -- Robert O. Anderson; Bruce Goff; Alan Hess - The Architect's Newspaper

Would you live in a wooden skyscraper? Engineers have conceived designs for soaring wooden skyscrapers...up to 80 stories...wood's true potential for 21st century cities is likely to emerge in the lab, where scientists are conducting myriad torture tests...to see whether wood can overcome the safety concerns... [images]- Science magazine (American Association for the Advancement of Science /AAAS)

Michael Murphy: Architecture that's built to heal: Architecture is more than a clever arrangement of bricks...he and his team look far beyond the blueprint when they're designing...He takes us on a tour of projects [and] ambitious plan for The Memorial to Peace and Justice, which he hopes will heal hearts in the American South. -- MASS Design Group [video]- TEDTalks

Detroit Resists decries lack of community representation on Venice Biennale U.S. Pavilion panels: On October 1, the curators...will host "conversations" under the title of "Architecture and Change"...Who is absent from these conversations? We might suggest that the very communities these processes pretend to aid are both invoked and erased. By Detroit Resists -- Cynthia Davidson; Mónica Ponce de León- The Architect's Newspaper

Top 5 High-Rise Buildings 2016: The International Highrise Award Finalists: New York and Singapore take center-stage at...biannually celebrated architecture trophy hosted by the City of Frankfurt am Main. -- Fumihiko Maki & Associates; Rafael Viñoly; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Moshe Safdie Architects; WOHA Architects [images]- Artinfo

RIBA Charles Jencks Award for Architecture 2016 Goes to Niall McLaughlin: ...given to an individual architect or practice that has made a major contribution to the theory and practice of architecture internationally.- Artinfo

Marina Abramovic presents Norman Foster with golden replica of his brain: In addition to the brain, she also created a custom-made 'mad scientist' skull cap for Foster equipped with LED lights...[at the 'The Golden Brain Gala']. [images]- CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

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